Dear Commissioner,
I am writing to urge you to block the proposed SBC/AT&T and Verizon/MCI mergers
(WC Dockets 05-65 and 05-75, respectively). These mergers would stifle
competition and would decrease options while increasing price. They could even
worsen the "digital divide" at a time when over 60 percent of Americans don't
have high-speed Internet service in the home.

As a consumer and a telephone user, I am very concerned about these mergers and
what they will do to my telephone bill. Big Bell companies are blocking access
to their networks and stopping competition before it can even begin for local,
long-distance, the Internet, cell phone services, and new technologies like
making calls over the Internet. If these mergers go through, only two companies
will control 90 percent of the consumer market. These mergers would put the
interests of large corporations over the interests of individual consumers, and
you have a duty to block them. In a world of increased competition, consumers
could be enjoying unlimited local and long-distance telephone calls, as well as
high-speed Internet access, for just $40 -- $15 for community Internet and $25
for unlimited phone calls over the Internet. But today, this costs about $90
more than double the price! The FCC should block these mergers and find new
ways to bring down the costs of these servic!
 es, particularly high-speed Internet which has become essential to modern life
and is the gateway to exciting new technologies, like making phone calls on the
Internet and streaming in video over the Internet. America is falling behind
the rest of the world in broadband deployment. We are now 16th, far behind
countries like Japan and Korea, which have opened up the building blocks of
broadband phone and cable lines to competitors.   This merger would only
worsen these problems and therefore must be blocked. They would stifle
competition, raise prices, and lead to fewer choices, making the problem worse,
not better.

Sincerely,

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